# A VINDICATION

Of the Reverend

# Mr. Alexander Osborn,

In reference to the Affairs

# Of the North of *IRELAND*:

In which

Some Mistakes concerning him (in the Printed Account of the Siege of *DERRY*; The Observations on it, and Mr. *Walker*'s Vindication of it) are rectified.

And a brief Relation of those Affairs is given so far as Mr. *Osborn*, and other N. C. Ministers in the North, were concern'd in 'em.

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Written at Mr. *Osborn*'s Request by his Friend Mr. *J. Boyse*.

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Licens'd *Nov.* 22. 1689. And Entred according to Order.
Jos. Kennett.

*LONDON*,

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A

# VINDICATION

## Of the Reverend

## Mr. *Alexander Osborn*, &c.

THE Deſign of this Paper is to reſcue the Reputation of a very worthy and pious *Divine* from one of the blackeſt Aſperſions that could have been caſt upon him. And tho' the regard which is due to the deſerved eſteem of every good man, much more one of that Sacred Profeſſion, ſet ſo juſt and ſo charitable an Undertaking above the need of any Apology for it, yet our preſent Circumſtances oblige me to premiſe ſomething for obviating any ill conſtructions that may be made of it. As it was a great ſurprize to Mr. *Osborn* to find himſelf ſo ſtrangely miſrepreſented in Papers Printed at *London*, where ſo many Perſons of Quality then reſided, who not only knew his Innocency, but had been pleas'd to acknowledge his good Service: So it was no leſs trouble to him that ſome of thoſe Papers wherein he was chiefly wrong'd, bore the venerable Name of a Perſon whom he ſo highly eſteem'd on the account of his being active in the ſame Excellent Cauſe wherein he had Embarqu't himſelf. He is extremely ſorry that his own defence lays ſuch an unhappy neceſſity upon him, to expoſe any miſtake con-

cerning him in the Printed *Account of the Siege of* DERRY, or those added to it in the *Vindication* of that *Account*. But he hopes none that would not themselves be thought partial and unrighteous Judges of things, will interpret his care of his own good Name as any envious design to lessen the Reputation of the *Reverend Mr. George Walker*. For that deserving Gentleman may still enioy all the Honour due to his Eminent Service, to the Interest of Their Majesties and the Protestant Religion; tho' the world be undeceiv'd in that ill Opinion of Mr. *Osborn*, which he has unhappily led 'em into, as if he had done his utmost to undermine it. The asserting Mr. *Osborn*'s Integrity and Prudence in managing those Affairs which the Advice of his Friends, and his Zeal for the publick good had involved him in, will be no Impeachment to Mr. *W*---'s care and fidelity in overseeing the Stores, and distributing the Provisions of *DERRY*. Nay, he hopes this Vindication cannot be displeasing to Mr. *W*— himself, who at length has ingenuously profest his readiness *to give him all opportunity of justifying himself, and to make him all imaginable satisfaction if he has done him wrong*. He owns this offer to be very fair and candid; only he could have wisht that Mr. *W*-- (when he was by a private Letter admonisht of his mistake, and had so much leisure and opportunity to inform himself better) had before this time excus'd him from this unwelcom Task by that ingenuous Retractation, which he was with all modesty and respect sollicited to. The Plaister would have been acceptable from that hand that first gave the wound; and therefore he can scarce forbear taking it a little unkindly to receive from the same hand a second Stab without the least provocation. He is sorry Mr. *W*— should think himself so far interested in his first Errour, as to run into new ones to support the Credit of it, and yet deliver 'em with such an Air of Assurance, as must needs rivet his Readers in the belief of 'em, if they be not undeceiv'd. For after so kind a profession, as that forementiond, he is yet pleas'd to conclude

that

that part of his Vindication, which concerns Mr. *Osb.* with these words [ *Though he* ( i. e. *Mr.* W——— ) *think it advisable they should not put him on justifying himself any farther in that particular.* ] And besides him, that Credulous Gentleman, that Writes the Observations on Mr. *W*—'s Narrative, intends ( it seems ) to affright Mr. *Osb.* from any Attempt to wipe off this dirt, by more he has yet in reserve to throw upon him. For he talks of no less than more *Demonstrative Proofs*, that may possibly be ready to be produced, if Mr. *Osb.* complain of any injury done to him. This were almost enough to perswade a Man out of the belief of his own Innocence, if a good Conscience were not Armour of Proof against the most confident mistakes. But sure all this is sufficient to shew the reasonableness and necessity of Mr. *Osb*'s appearing at last to clear himself. For to have continued silent any longer under a charge as perfectly groundless as 'tis extreamely odious, and this so often renew'd, would justly be thought *Stupidity* rather than *Patience*; and he would not deserve that good Reputation he has formerly had, shou'd he now so wilfully *throw* it away.

I shall therefore in order to the clearer Vindication of Mr. *Osb. First*, Consider the *Charge* brought against him in the *Account of the Seige of* Derry, and what is said to Establish the Credibility of it, both in the *Observations* on it, and Mr. *W*—'s own *Vindication* of it; and then give so satisfactory an Account of Mr. *Osb*'s Proceedings in those Affairs, as is sufficient to convince these Gentlemen themselves, how injurious a Character they have given of him.

For the *Charge* brought against him in the *Account of the Seige of* Derry; 'tis this, *That he was a Spie upon the whole North of* Ireland *imployed by the Lord* Tyrconnel. A Crime so much the more detestable in him if true; not only as it would argue him perfidious to the Protestant Interest in general, but particularly to that great Trust which his Friends

in the *North* had repos'd in him: So that by this Character all Men muſt account him one of the worſt of *Villains*. One wou'd think then there were ſome clear Evidence of his keeping up ſome ſecret Correſpondence with the Lord *Tyrconnel*, ſome *Letters Intercepted* or *Diſcover'd*, in which he had given him dangerous Intelligence and Advices, how he might moſt effectually ruine thoſe Deſigns that were forming in the *North*. But 'tis ſtrange, that neither in the *Account* it ſelf, nor in the *Vindication* of it, is there one Syllable produced to this purpoſe. But leaſt I ſhould be thought to miſrepreſent theſe two *Gentlemen*, as they have done Mr. *Osb*. I ſhall give the Reader their own Words. In the *Obſervation* on Mr. *W*—'s Narrative, *Page* 7. The Author thus ſpeaks.

" *I deſire* every Man who is not byaſs'd by prejudice and " pre-poſſeſſion quietly to conſider, Whether Mr. *W*—— " (pen'd up within the Walls of *Derry*, depriv'd of all In- " formation and Intelligence both of publick Affairs and " the Actions of private Men, ſeeing a Letter from a Perſon " generally known, and an Eminent Leader of a Party, diſ- " covering an Admiſſion into the preſence of the Popiſh Lord " Deputy, (the great Engine and Operator in the ruine of " *Ireland*) an Intimacy with him, and a Truſt and Commiſ- " ſion deriv'd from him, whereby he was directed to cajole " the poor diſtracted and diſanimated Proteſtants with the " Terror of Conqueſt and Military Execution on the one " ſide in caſe of Oppoſition; and the deluſion of hope to " be ſecure under a Protection, in caſe of ſubmiſſion, and a " tame ſurrender of their Arms and Horſes; I ſay whether " Mr. *W*—— peruſing this ambiguous Letter, and obſerving " the pernicious Effects of it, upon the generality of the " People in *Ulſter*, eſpecially thoſe of the Writers perſuaſion, " whereby they were influenc'd to a fatal and ſtupid Com- " pliance, (As if the Doctrine of Non-reſiſtance and Paſ- " ſive Obedience may be taught on fit Occaſions, even

" by

" by ſuch as diſſent from the Church of *England*.) had not " reaſon to ſuſpect his candour, and become very apprehen- " ſive too, and jealous of his integrity.

A Paragraph unmercifully long, but very eaſily pardonable if that were the worſt fault of it.

To the ſame purpoſe Mr. *W*— in his *Vindic.* p. 16.

" For Mr. *Osb.* Mr. *W*—— is concern'd he had occaſion to " name any to their diſadvantage, but he did it with that " notion he had of him in the Garriſon, and thoſe of his " own Profeſſion there, and thought it wou'd on that ac- " count give the leſs offence, but he cou'd not eaſily forget " the effects of his Letter which Mr. *W*—— had ſhar'd in " to his ſorrow——And Mr. *W*—— adds further, he has " heard of the Gentleman's good Intentions in his Proceed- " ings; Mr. *W*—— is ſorry they were no better under- " ſtood, that he might clear him from the imputation of " thoſe miſchiefs which his Management and Advices " brought on that part of the Kingdom. But 'tis hard to " ſerve two ſuch Maſters, the *Britiſh* and the *Iriſh*. If he " was not more induſtrious and ſerious, Mr. *W*—— is too " ſure he was more ſucceſsful in his ſervice to the latter by his " Impreſſion, not only on the meaner ſort, but on ſome of " the beſt Quality.

In which words here is ſomething ſaid to render the Character Mr. *W*—— had receiv'd by report concerning Mr. *Osb.* highly probable, and ſomething to apologize for Mr. *W*—'s Publiſhing it on the Account of its Probability.

What is ſaid to render this Character, Mr. *W*—— had received by report concerning Mr. *Osb.* probable, does partly depend on what is contain'd in the *Letter* it ſelf, partly

on the *Effects* which this Letter is said to have produc'd, and partly on the *Impression* which Mr. *Osb*'s *Advices*, as well as *Letter* are suppos'd to have made, not only on the *People*, but on some of the *best Quality* in the *North*.

Now if there be nothing in the *Letter* it self to countenance this Charge of his being the Lord *Tyrconnel*'s Spye; If no such *Effects* as those mention'd can with any *Truth* or *Justice* be imputed to the *Letter*; If Mr. *Osb.* gave no *Advices* that any way serv'd the Interest of the *Irish*, nor ever perswaded either the *People* or any *Persons of Quality* to a compliance with the Lord *Tyrconnel*'s Offers, but the quite contrary; then all the grounds hitherto alledg'd to favour this report, are but like it self, new mistakes superadded to the first.

There is nothing in the *Letter* it self to justifie this *Charge*. Mr. *Osb*'s being once introduc'd into my Lord *Tyrconnel*'s presence, is no Evidence of any such intimacy with him (as the *Author* of the *Observations* vainly imagines) that he shou'd meerly on that score be thought one of his great *Confidents*. For as he never spoke with him but once about that affair, so he never before nor after either spoke with, or receiv'd any Message from him, or any employ'd by him. And I wonder where that Gentlemen's eyes were, when he saith the Letter discovers a *Trust and Commission which Mr.* Osb. *deriv'd from him*, when the contrary is suggested in the beginning of the *Letter* it self; and indeed the Lord *Tyrconnel* disown'd with some contempt the sending any *Commissioner* to 'em. And sure Mr. *Osb*'s acquainting those Gentlemen in the *North* with what he had heard from the Lord *Tyrconnel*'s own mouth, and had his *Permission* to relate concerning his resolutions of sending an Army thither, can by no Man of sense be thought a proof of his keeping up a treacherous Correspondence with him in order to ther ruine.

To give this the force of ſo much as a probable Argument: It muſt be made appear alſo that Mr. *Osb.* made uſe of that meſſage he brought to move thoſe of the *North* to accept of the terms offer'd 'em by the Lord *Tyrconnel*; which if theſe Gentlemen can prove, *Mr. Osb.* is content they ſhall call him what they pleaſe. But as he never promis'd any ſuch thing to the Lord *Tyrconnel* himſelf, ſo much leſs did he ever go about it. How earneſtly he endeavour'd the contrary, will afterwards appear.

And as the *Letter* alone has nothing in it to prove this *Charge*, ſo the *diſmal effects* mention'd can with no Truth or Juſtice be imputed to it, or the *Writer* of it; Such as the *fatal and ſtupid compliance of the People of Ulſter*, as the *Obſervator* ſpeaks; or the *miſchiefs which befel that part of the Kingdom*, as Mr. *W.* expreſſes it. As the Letter barely relates the Lord *Tyrconnel*'s diſcourſe to the *Writer*, without the leaſt mention of his own Judgment or Advice; ſo it was written to none, but ſuch as were Members of the *Conſult*, and with no other deſign than to draw 'em together to take ſuch ſpeedy and effectual meaſures, as the ſenſe of their imminent danger, and the conſideration of their common Intereſt ſhould ſuggeſt to 'em. And 'tis certain, that Letter cannot be ſaid to influence thoſe to whom it was written, to any ſuch ſtupid compliance with the Lord *Tyrconnel*'s offers; when not only upon their meeting, the *Writer* diſſuaded 'em from it, but the *Conſult* accordingly rejected thoſe very offers in the *Anſwer*, which they ordered him to ſend back. And the *Conſult* were ſo far from apprehending any ſuch tendency in that *Letter*, to diſcourage the People from their own defence, that they order'd *Copies* of it to be ſpread on purpoſe to incite 'em to it. For what cou'd more effectually do ſo, than a certain Account of the March of the Lord *Tyrconnel*'s Army, and conſequently the neceſſity of ſpeedy and vigorous Preparations to oppoſe it? If any were ſo weak as to make any other uſe of it (as I believe none ever did) It was owing to their own Fears and Cowardiſe;

diſe; not to the Letter it ſelf, much leſs the deſign of the Writer, or thoſe that order'd the diſperſion of it. It was their advantage not to be perfectly ſurpriz'd (as otherwiſe they had been) for want of Intelligence; and the People had too juſt apprehenſions of *Iriſh* Promiſes of Protection, to be then deluded by 'em. And therefore whereas the Author of the *Obſerv.* talks of the pernicious effects of that Letter upon the generality of the people in *Ulſter*, eſpecially thoſe of Mr. *Osb*'s perſwaſion, "whereby they were influenc'd to a ſtu-"pid and fatal compliance, (as if the Doctrine of Non-reſi-"ſtance and Paſſive Obedience might be taught on fit occaſions, "even by ſuch as Diſſent from the Church of *England.*) 'Tis a wonder what ill Genius cou'd hurry that Gentleman to ſuch palpable miſtakes, as none on the place cou'd well be ignorant of the falſhood of. As for the generality of the people in *Ulſter*, (and ſince he has given this occaſion, I muſt in juſtice add) particularly thoſe of Mr. *Osb*'s perſwaſion; They were ſo far from being inclin'd to a compliance, that they were moſt free and reſolute for Self-defence, and cou'd ſcarce forbear very paſſionate Reſentments, when they found that ſome of their Leaders thought their circumſtances and ſurprize cou'd not admit of it, and accordingly began to conſult their own ſafety. And 'tis very hard to add this to all their other miſeries, the upbraiding 'em ſo unjuſtly with bringing 'em upon themſelves. And for Mr. *Osb.* and his Brethren, they were ſo far from what this Gentleman would inſinuate, *viz.* Preaching the Doctrine of Non-reſiſtance and Paſſive Obedience in this juncture, that they undertook, with the approbation of the Conſult, to exhort all their people that cou'd bear Arms to appear with 'em at the appointed place of Rendevouz. (Of which more in the following Relation.) Their Confeſſion of Faith does indeed entirely agree with the Articles of the Church of *England*, in the Doctrine of Subjection to Lawful Magiſtrates: But for the notion of Non-reſiſtance (ſo far as it had been ſtrain'd beyond all bounds by thoſe who to ſecure their own Intereſt at Court had, made it the diſtinguiſhing Cha-

Character of a Party both in Church and State) as it had been an entire ſtranger to their Pulpits before; ſo it wou'd have been wonderful indeed if they had preach't it up now, when the diſmal conſequences of it were actually in their view. What they did in this juncture to the contrary, was conſonant to thoſe very Sentiments concerning the juſt meaſures of Government and Subjection, which many of thoſe had upbraided 'em with as Seditious, who were themſelves forc'd to take Sanctuary in 'em for the defence of their own truly generous Actions in this great and happy Revolution. And whatever occaſion this Gentleman has given, I ſhall not now take it to retort ſo fooliſh and ſo groundleſs an Accuſation, though I might do it with all poſſible advantage.

And as thoſe diſmal effects cannot be juſtly imputed to Mr. *Osb*'s Letter, ſo much leſs (as Mr. *W*---- now further ſuggeſts) to his Management and Advice. Though if Mr. *Osb.* had from a real perſwaſion of the inability of the North, to reſiſt the *Iriſh* Army, advis'd 'em rather to accept the Offers he brought, I can by no means think this wou'd juſtifie his being call'd the Lord *Tyrconnel*'s Spy, or accounted a Friend to the *Iriſh*. For I think he wou'd do the greateſt wrong to the reputation of that great Ornament of his profeſſion, the Reverend Biſhop of *Derry*, who ſhou'd Brand him as one of the Lord *Tyrconnel*'s Agents, or a Well-wiſher to the *Iriſh* and Papal Intereſt, becauſe he advis'd the Inhabitants of that City to open their Gates after the firſt ſhutting of 'em; chiefly, I doubt not, out of a real dread of thoſe diſmal conſequences he apprehended wou'd enſue on ſo deſperate an undertaking. But Mr. *Osb.* is very far from needing this Apology for himſelf: For that he no otherwiſe ſerv'd the *Iriſh*, than by diſcovering their deſigns, and ſuggeſting the moſt proper methods to defeat 'em; nor made any other Impreſſion on either the People, or the Nobility and Gentry, than to encourage and animate 'em to oppoſe their Enemies; will be ſo undeniable evident by the following

ing Account, that I hope Mr. *W.*---- himſelf will paſs a ſeverer Cenſure on his own Expreſſions in the Vindication it ſelf, than Mr. *Osb.* is willing to do, and at length begin to entertain a better Opinion of him.

For what is ſaid in the forementioned Paſſages by way of Apology for Mr. *W*---'s Publiſhing this report on thoſe preſumptions of its truth, which we have here examined, Mr. *Osb.* is the leſs ſolicitous about it. Only he hopes 'tis capable of a much better Apology than that very weak and miſerable one that the *Obſervator* makes, and Mr. *W*---- himſelf is pleaſed to inſiſt on. For ſure thoſe worthy Gentlemen, do not intend to make the World believe, that Mr. *W*---- publiſh't this miſtake, *When pen'd up within the Walls of* Derry, *and deprived of all Information there.* And if Mr. *W*---- had received this notion of Mr. *Osb.* in the Garriſon, he might have been informed better, if he had pleaſed, to Conſult thoſe Perſons of Quality in *London*, who were on the place, and knew the whole affair. Nay, he might have been undeceived by Mr. *Osb.* himſelf, if he had inquired of him the truth of that report, when he waited on him in *Edinburgh*, where he was as induſtrious to raiſe Mr. *W*---'s juſt Reputation, as Mr. *W*---- ſeems to have been in blaſting his. He thinks Mr. *Walker*'s hurry in Publiſhing his Account a much better excuſe; but that will ſcarce extend to his Vindication of it.

Hitherto

Hitherto then we are far from seeing any demonstrative Proofs of this heavy *Charge*, whatever hidden ones are kept in store: But to put even those out of Countenance, I need do no more than give a plain Relation of Matters of Fact, that have too many Witnesses ready to attest 'em, to be outfac'd by slender Reports, or the greatest Air of Assurance us'd to bear up the credit of 'em.

About the end of *November* last, 1688. a little after the happy Tidings of the *Prince* of *Orange*'s Landing had reach'd our Ears in *Ireland*, Mr. *Osborn* was entrusted by his Brethren the *Non-conformist Ministers*, and other *Gentlemen* of Note and Intereſt in the Province of *Ulster*, to get some Gentleman or other sent over from *Dublin* to the *Prince* with these following *Instructions*, signed by those two whose Names are subscrib'd in the Name of the rest.

1. *That in our Name you Congratulate the Arrival of the Prince of* Orange *into* England, *and his Success hitherto in so glorious an Undertaking to deliver these Nations from Popery and Slavery.*

2. *That you represent the Dangers and Fears of the Protestants in* Ireland, *and particularly in the Province of* Ulster, *and humbly beseech him to take some speedy and effectual Care for their preservation and relief.*

3. *That you represent our readiness to serve him and his Interest in prosecution of so glorious a design, as far as we have access.*

Subscrib'd,

Archibald Hamilton.
Alexander Osborn.

Accordingly on *December* the 8*th*. they sent over a Gentleman, now in Town, who in pursuance of these Instructions

deliver'd in a *Memorial*, enlarging on these Heads (for they begg'd no particular Favour for a Party) to the then *Prince of Orange*. The *Originals* of both which *Papers* are in my Hands.

But besides this piece of Service which Mr. *Osborn* undertook, he was further desir'd by his Brethren, and by other Gentlemen in the *North* upon his return to *Dublin*, to send 'em an Account from time to time, by the most prudent Methods he could contrive, not only of the Success of their Message to *England*, but of the Designs of the Lord *Tyrconnel* in that Kingdom, especially what concern'd the Province of *Ulster*: Nor was this conceal'd from such of the Conforming *Nobility*, *Gentry* and *Clergy* as it was fit, and there was opportunity to communicate such an Affair to: And if Mr. *Walker* was unacquainted with it, the Reason is too obvious to be mention'd. Accordingly Mr. *Osborn* wrote many Letters, giving 'em the best Intelligence he could learn; several of 'em I have seen in *Dublin*, most written in a kind of Character, but two (if I misremember not) of his, written in plain English, are inserted already in a Paper, call'd, *An Apology for the Protestants in Ireland*, &c. one Dated *Feb.* 22. (88.) the other *Feb.* 25.

This Trust he so faithfully discharg'd, that several of the most discerning Protestants in the North have often regretted that those Letters of his were no better improv'd, which gave 'em so fair warning to expedite their Measures, and provide against the shock they might expect, as soon as the Lord *Tyrconnel* was in a Capacity to attacque 'em. And this is so well known, that had not Mr. *Walker* in this Passage oppos'd Mr. *Osborn*'s Carriage to that of his Brethren in *Derry*, I should have imagined there had been some mistake of the Printer, and Mr. *Walker* had intended to say, *That Mr.* Osborn *was a Spye for the whole North upon the Lord* Tyrconnel; for that had come much nearer the Truth.

The

The Noise of the Preparations made in the *North*, by raising of Regiments, &c. as well as of the Revolutions in *England*, extreamly alarm'd the Government in *Ireland*: And though the Lord *Tyrconnel* went on vigorously with the compleating of his New Levies, yet he was so apprehehensive of the strength of the Northern Forces, that he deferr'd the sending down his Army twenty dayes after it had been first resolv'd on in Council. But when *Frier O Haggerty* (who was unhappily suffer'd to bring up the Capitulation betwixt those of the North and the Garrison of *Carrick-fergus*) gave him a full Account from his own Observations of the Posture of the *British* in the North: [Viz. *That they were untrain'd, and had few experienc'd Officers; that the most part were without Arms, and such as had 'em, their Arms were unfix'd, and unfit for service; that they were very much scatter'd, and their number not near what had been written, and was confidently reported in* Dublin; *that they wanted all Ammunition and necessary Provisions for appearing in the field.*] He resolved immediately to dispatch the most considerable and best-train'd part of his Army, under the Command of Lieutenant General *Hamilton*. I am here oblig'd to omit some material Passages, for a reason too obvious to be nam'd; but as to Mr. *Osborn* shall add, That as he perceiv'd by his Letters from the *North*, that their too great confidence of their own Strength, of Aids from *England*, and of *Tyrconnel*'s fears, made 'em so secure, that they look'd on all the Threatnings of an *Irish Army* as only *bigg words*; so he begun to fear they would be perfectly ruin'd for want of such timely notice of their danger, as might enable 'em to put themselves into any good Posture for their own defence: He found all way of communicating Intelligence to 'em by Sea or Land entirely stop'd. He had been, without his knowledge, mention'd to the Lord *Tyrconnel*, as a Person very fit to communicate any Message he pleas'd to send to 'em: And his deep concern to prevent their threatned ruine, brought him at last (though with great reluctancy) to yield to the urgent Advice given him, not to refuse so fair an opportunity of conveying to his Friends in the North the best

Information and Advice that could be given 'em. And that this *Wisdom of the Serpent* may appear fully consistent with the *Innocence of the Dove*, I shall transcribe all the Discourse that pass'd betweem 'em, besides what is referr'd to in the Letter it self, as transmitted to me in his own Letter.

*Lord* Tyrconnel. *I am inform'd you are well acquainted in* Ulster *with several of the Nobility, Gentry and Ministry living therein, having had your Residence there for many years, to which parts I am a great Stranger, and cannot but admire at the rebellious Carriage and Actions of some hot and rash-spirited men, who have incited the People to leave their labour and run out into Rebellion, yet I pity the poor People, and am willing to Pardon 'em, upon the delivery of their serviceable Horses and Arms, and giving up six of their chief Leaders.*

To this Mr. *Osborn* reply'd, *He knew the Protestant Nobility and Gentry in the North in former times to have carried it loyally and soberly, but having had his Residence chiefly in* Dublin *for twelve Months by-past, he could not undertake to give a distinct account of present Irregularities among 'em.*

The Lord *Tyrconnel* upon mention of *Irregularities* grew hot, and said, *What Sir, do you call 'em but Irregularities? they are guilty of the very height of Rebellion.* To this Mr. *Osb.* considering his circumstances, thought not fit to make any Answer, but proceeded to put this Quest. to him, *What if the People in the North should incline to deliver up six of their chief Leaders, and these six discovering their Inclinations, should withdraw, or transport themselves to* England *or* Scotland, *whether he would send down his Army to destroy the poor People, whom he judg'd to be drawn to take up Arms by their perswasion?* To which he answer'd, *If they did withdraw and leave the Kingdom, he had done with 'em*; and added, *That to shew his Lenity, he would be content with three of their chief Leaders.* Mr. *Osborn* Propos'd again, *If those three would not be clear to accept what offers were made to 'em in his Excellency's Discourse to him, but should rather incline to come and Discourse with himself, he granting 'em safe Conduct for coming to him*; *and if they agreed not, for returning again, to be in the same circumstances as before*: To which he condescended, with a solemn Attestation; adding, *That tho*

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*the Earl of* Mount-Alexander *and Sir* Arthur Rawdon *should come to him, whom he judg'd the most active in that Affair, he would grant what was demanded.* The third Person Mr. *Osborn* could not learn from him. Mr. *Osborn* Propos'd again to the Lord *Tyrconnel*'s consideration, (with a design to gain time for the Assistance expected from *England*, and procrastinate the March of the *Irish* Army,) *That* Ulster *was a large Province, consisting of Nine Counties, and therefore begg'd his Excellency would allow him a considerable and convenient time for travelling through those Counties, that he might discourse what he had heard from his Excellency's own mouth, with the Nobility, Gentry and Ministry scatter'd in 'em, and chiefly concern'd in the* Ulster-*Association.* To which he reply'd, *That he would not stop the March of his Army for one day or hour, but would give Directions to Lieutenant General* Hamilton, *to treat with any that should be sent to him from the Protestants in Arms there.* And then he shew'd him a *Paper*, which he said was a Copy of the *Declaration* he would send along with Lieut. Gen. *Hamilton*, and publish before he entred into Warr, as containing the best terms they might expect if they accepted not those proposed to 'em by Mr. *Osborn*; and he added here that *Passage* concerning the *Irish Rabble* mention'd in Mr. *Osborn*'s Letter, and added further, *That had he been sooner ready with his Army, he would sooner have resented their rebellious Actions, and the Indignity offer'd to his Proclamation of Clemency; and being now ready, would delay no longer, and would not be afraid to go thro all* Ulster *with* 5000 *Men, and would be at* Newry *against the* 11th. *of* March, *and go on* (as in the Letter) *being confident he would meet with no resistance till he came to the Walls of* Derry, *That he knew well the Case they were in, and that their expectations from England made 'em so violent; but they would find themselves disappointed, for no help would come so soon as they expected.*

This is (as near as Mr. *Osborn* can remember) the whole of that Discourse that pass'd between them, which the Reader had not been troubled with at this length, were it not requisite to obviate their Reproaches, who rather than fail of something to criminate Mr. *Osborn* with, are pleas'd to argue, That if Mr. *Osborn* was true to the Interest of the North, he must be false to his Promises to the Lord *Tyrconnel*: For he made

made him none, nor gave him ground to expect any more from him, than that he would relate what he heard, which accordingly he did in the printed Letter. So unexceptionably clean and Innocent was this Negotiation of his. And indeed the Lord *Tyrconnel* was as much overseen in permitting Mr. *Osborn* to go down to the *North*, as they were in suffering *Frier O Haggerty* to come up to *Dublin*. And that the success was so different, was not (as will now appear) Mr. *Osborn*'s fault.

Mr. *Osborn* having obtain'd the Lord *Tyrconnel*'s Pass, left *Dublin*, *March* the 7*th*, came to *Newry March* the 8*th*, and the next day he and his two Guards were pursued by the *Rapperies*, but got safe to *Loch-bricklan*. Here he wrote the forementionn'd Letter to my Lord *Massareen*; and going on to *Hillsbrough*, he wrote the same Letter to Sir *Arthur Rawdon*, not finding him there as he expected. In which *Letter* it was as needless as 'twas unadvisable, to give his own opinion of the Lord *Tyrconnels* Proposals, since the design of it was to draw the Nobility and Gentry to meet and consult their common Safety; and he knew not what necessity there might be of his going back with any Message from them, or about his own affairs, to *Dublin*. But to those of the Nobility and Gentry that were there on the 9*th* and 10*th*, he deliver'd in a Paper containing many particulars, by way of *Information* and *Advice*, of which these that follow were a part.

1. *That for the* Irish *Army, tho their Horses were good, yet their Riders were but contemptible* Fellows, *many of them having been lately Cow-herds*, &c.

2. *That their Provisions of Ammunition were not plentifull.*

3. *That shou'd those of the* North *comply with the Offers made to them, they had no reason to expect any true performance; the Lord* Tyrconnel *having broken all such Capitulations as he had lately made in the like case with the Protestants in the South and West of* Ireland, *and thereby reduc'd them to Poverty and Slavery.*

4. *That the Eyes of all Protestants were upon them. A great Interest depended on their carriage: And 'twere better to die ho-*

*honourably, than live miſerably under Popery and Slavery: That their ſelf-defence might be of great conſequence to* Brittain *as well as* Ireland, *either to their advantage or diſadvantage, as their part ſhould be well or ill acted.*

5. *It was adviſed that they ſhould inſtantly gather all the Forces they could from all parts, and chooſe out of them a Party of their beſt arm'd and train'd men, to engage the Enemy, and have the reſt ready to fall on their wings and out-skirts.*

6. *'Twas adviſ'd alſo that the Conduct of their Military Affairs ſhould be committed to their beſt known and experienc'd Officers.*

7. *That they ſhould debate with 'em from Paſs to Paſs, and ſo weary out their Men, Horſes and Proviſions, in expectation of Relief from* England.

Theſe with many other things he ſuggeſted.

The *Iriſh* Army being come to *Newry* on the 11*th.* he was on the 12*th.* call'd for by ſuch as were in the Conſult, and his own Advice deſir'd: He inſiſted on the Advice forementioned, and with all modeſt importunity urg'd 'em to defend themſelves, and not to truſt any *Iriſh* Promiſes. And accordingly he was Order'd by 'em to ſend back the following Anſwer to the Meſſage he brought:

*We Declare the utter abhorrence of the effuſion of Blood, and that we will uſe all proper means to avoid it, but cannot conſent to lay down our Arms, which we were forc'd to take up for our own Defence, nor to part with our Goods by any other than legal means; and that we are ready to appoint Perſons to treat on ſuch heads as are conſiſtent with the ſafety of our Religion, Lives and Liberties.*

On the 13*th.* Mr. *Oſborn* and ſeveral other *Miniſters* being ſent for from *Bellfaſt* to *Hillsbrough*, there were Nine of 'em met on the 14*th.* viz. Mr. *Archibald Hamilton*, Mr. *Alexander Oſborn*, Mr. *Henry Leviſton*, Mr. *William Legate*, Mr. *Alexander Gordon*, Mr. *Alexander Glaſs*, Mr. *George Lang*, Mr. *Alexander Macracken* and Mr. —— *Adair*; and before they preſented themſelves before ſuch of the *Conſult* as were then met, they debated among themſelves what they ſhould Anſwer to the *Queſtion*, *Shall we reſiſt or make peace?* They found only

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one of their number inclinable to a *Treaty*, on the account of their bad circumſtances; but all the reſt were againſt it, and eſpecially Mr. *Oſborn*, who inſiſted particularly on theſe three Reaſons againſt it.

1. *That nothing was to be expected but what was contained in the Proclamation that came down to the North with the Army on the* 11th. *and was ſpread through the Countrey on the* 12th.

2. *That no true performance even of theſe Terms was to be expected, which he confirmed by ſeveral Inſtances of the manner of* Tyreonnel's *keeping his word with the Proteſtanrs in other parts of the Kingdom.*

3. *That the ſafety and peace of* Brittain *depended more on the Reſiſtance which the North of* Ireland *might make than they were aware of.* For he acquainted 'em, *That there was a deſign laid for tranſporting an* Iriſh *Army into* Scotland *as ſoon as the North of* Ireland *were ſubdued.*

Accordingly what the *Miniſters* forementiond propoſed to the *Conſult*, will appear in the following *Memoir* drawn up by one of the Members of it then preſent.

" *Memorand.* On the 14*th. March* laſt, ( 168$\frac{8}{9}$. ) about " Nine *Preſbyterian Miniſters* came to ſuch of the *Con-* " *ſult* as were then preſent at *Hillsbrough:* They apologiz'd for " their offering their Advice in ſuch Affairs, which nothing but a " deep ſenſe of the common danger and diſtreſs of that great Bo- " dy of Proteſtants ( whereof they were Members ) could have " put 'em upon. The *Conſult* receiv'd 'em very kindly, and " deſir'd 'em to proceed. They then acquainted 'em that there " were in their ſeveral Pariſhes many able Men, fit for Mili- " tary Service, who had Arms, and were not yet liſted in the " Army, and yet were very willing to venture their Lives for " K. *William* and Q. *Mary* and the *Proteſtaat Religion:* They " therefore Propos'd, if the *Conſult* approv'd it, that they would " preſently repair to their ſeveral Pariſhes, and admoniſh all " Men in their limits between ſixteen and ſixty, that could bear

Arms,

" Arms, to meet and rendezvouz on ſuch day and place as the " *Conſult* ſhould think fit, with ſuch Armes as they could " procure, and Ten days Proviſion with 'em. For they found " by the Information of their Brother Mr. *Osb.* (one of their " number) that the Lord *Tyrconnels* Army would certainly at- " tacque 'em on the refuſal of his *Propoſals*; which *Propoſals* " they could by no means adviſe 'em to comply with, but " rather advis'd 'em to make a Vigorous and Reſolute De- " fence.

" To this Advice, thoſe of the *Conſult* then preſent, rea- " dily aſſented, and preſently employed Clerks to write Or- " ders for Summoning the Country to meet at *Blaris-More*, " on the *Tueſday* following, being the 19*th*. Upon which " the ſaid *Miniſters* reſolved to repair to their ſeveral Pa- " riſhes, to encourage and excite the People to meet at the " day appointed; declaring their purpoſe alſo to come to " the Field with 'em. They alſo further advis'd, that the " next *Monday*, being the 18*th*, ſhould be appointed as a pub- " lique day of Prayer and Faſting, to implore the Aſſiſtance " and Bleſſing of God on their Undertaking; which was " accordingly agreed to: And the ſaid *Miniſters* (with whom " (I am inform'd) that very Ingenious Divine of the Church " of *England*, Mr. *Charles Leſley* concurr'd) drew up reaſons to " be read in their ſeveral Congregations for that pur- " poſe.

But theſe meaſures came too late. For the *Iriſh* Army preſſing on 'em with unexpected haſte, and their Leaders neither agree- ing about *entrenching* themſelves, nor about the choice of any *Poſt* in thoſe parts which they thought defenſible, and ſome of them leaving the Kingdom: This uncertainty in their Coun- ſels joyn'd with the diſcouragement, which the delay of expe- cted ſuccours from *England* gave 'em, (with other things not fit for me to inſiſt on,) prevented their appointed Rendezvouz, and obliged them to retire in great confuſion towards *Colerain* and *Derry*.

But this ſhould not be forgotten, that though theſe Northern

Forces so unhappily failed in their design of Defending those parts; yet many of those Regiments raised there, made up the chief Strength of *Derry*: Mr. *W*'s own Regiment was rais'd for the Lord *Charlemount*, Capt. *Chichester* being the design'd Lieut. *Collonel*, but afterwards made *Collonel* of it; and the behaviour of such of them as stayed in that *Garrison*, has (as Mr. *W*. justly observes in his Narrative) *set 'em above Apologies for any miscarriage*.

This being a true Relation of matters of fact, (of which undeniable evidence will be produc'd if desir'd,) every one that reflects on 'em, must needs think this worthy *Gent*. deserv'd some other character then that of *Tyrconnel's Spye*; nor can there be a greater wrong done to him, then to impute those *mischiefs* and *calamities*, which befel that part of the Kingdom of *Ireland*, to his *management* and *advices*, by which he did all that was possible to prevent them. These reproaches are but a sorry requital of those Services, which wanted nothing but that success, which is not in human disposal, to render 'em as considerable as any of his Profession was capable of, and were not a little *expensive* as well as *hazardous* to himself. How different the apprehensions, which the *Consult* in the *North* had of Mr. *Osb*. were from these Mr. *W*. had receiv'd from idle reports, will appear in the following *Testimonial*, subscrib'd by several, of whom all but one were Members of it, and two of them are the very Persons, to whom the *Letter* so much talk't of was directed.

" We whose names are hereunto subscrib'd, do at the request " of Mr. *Alexander Osborn*, a *Presbyterian* Minister, late of *Dublin*, " hereby certifie, That the said Mr. *Osborn*, was to the certain " knowledge of some of us, and as others of us have credibly " heard and believe, for diverse months before his coming down " to the *North* of *Ireland* in *March* last, intrusted and employd " by diverse *Protestants* of credit in the *North*, as a Person of " known Integrity and Zeal to the *Protestant Interest*, under a " private method to correspond by Letter, and give Intelli- " gence from time to time of affairs in *Dublin*, especially of the

" Lord

" Lord *Tyrconnel*'s Proceedings there, in reference to the Army,
" and his designs upon the *North* of *Ireland*, which with other
" matters of no mean Importance to the *Protestant Interest*, he
" (as we have ground to believe) transacted with great care and
" fidelity. And that about the beginning of *March* last, when
" all correspondence between *Protestants*, from *Dublin* to the
" *North*, was cut off, the said Mr. *Osborn*, perceiving the Lord
" *Tyrconnel* immediately about to march down his Army to the
" *North* against the *Protestants* there, whereof they could in all
" likelyhood have no notice, but were in manifest danger of
" being surpriz'd and destroy'd thereby; He then (as we have
" credibly heard and believe) in order to prevent the same so
" far as in him lay, by timely Information, found means of
" procuring the Lord *Tyrconnels* Pass for himself to the *North*,
" where he had his former abode, the Lord *Tyrconnel* first tell-
" ing him, that he might acquaint the *Protestants* there, espe-
" cially some of the Chief, with what his Lordship then ex-
" press'd: Whereupon he came down to the *North*, running a
" considerable hazard of his life by the way, being notwith-
" standing his Pass pursued by some of the *Irish* on that Road,
" (as we were credibly inform'd, and believe.) Being come to
" the *North*, he by his Letters acquainted some of us, and others,
" with the purport of the Lord *Tyrconnel*'s discourse to him, as
" he left *Dublin*; but in the same Letters desir'd if we thought
" fit some personal conference, that he might have opportunity
" of discoursing more fully with us touching the matters therein
" contain'd, as by those his Letters of *March* 9th (88) may ap-
" pear; whereupon diverse of us and other *Protestants* meeting
" with him at *Hillsbrough*, receiv'd from him a more particular
" and full account thereof: He the said Mr. *Osborn*, at the same
" time advising us as his own private judgment, and as we va-
" lued our lives and interests, not to put confidence in the Lord
" *Tyrconnel* or any of his promises, but if we possibly could to
" defend our selves to the utmost, or words to that effect. And
" as for his Letters containing the substance of *Tyrconnels* dis-
" courses and threats against the *Protestants*; Some of us order'd

" by common consent, Copies of the same to be sent and dis-
" pers'd through the Countrey, that they might the better pre-
" pare themselves against the dangers that threatned them. We
" likewise directed what Answer the said Mr. *Osborn* should
" make, and committed the same to his discretion and care.
" Now in regard some of late, unacquainted (as we presume)
" with the proceedings then in that part of the Country, or at
" least with what past on that occasion, have represented the said
" Mr. *Osborn* in a publique manner, in respect of his being so
" concern'd, as an ill man, *and Spye upon the whole* North, *em-*
" *ployed by the Lord* Tyrconnel, *and as serving two Masters, the*
" Brittish *and the* Irish, *and the like*, to his great disadvantage:
" We cannot but own, that we (who had as we suppose good
" reason to *understand* him herein) had and still have better
" thoughts of him, and are so far from looking on him as guilty
" of any such matters, that we are well assur'd of his having in-
" tended, and done therein the best service he could to the *Pro-*
" *testant Interest* there; and that he was very faithful to the same
" to his utmost. All which at his desire by Letter, in order to his
" just vindication, We do hereby certifie this 19th day of *No-*
" *vember*, 1689.

*Massareen.*
*Ar. Rawdon.*
*Arthur Upton*, Esq;
*Will. Conyngham*, Esq;
*Hugh Macgill*, Esq;
*Will. Schaw*, Esq;

This *Testimonial* is so full, that had I receiv'd it sooner, it had spar'd me a great part of my labour. And I hope Mr. *W.* himself will pay too great deference to the Testimonies of persons who knew these affairs, and whose Reputation is above all exception, to persist in those mistakes concerning Mr. *Osborn*, which the little stories of some ignorant people had impos'd on him. And the very same Character of his Integrity and Zeal, has been given, both by the Earl of *Mount Alexander*, and by other Gentlemen

tlemen of the *North*, who have left this Town, as *James Hamilton* of *Tillimore*, and *James Hamilton* of *Bangor*, Esquires, *John Hawkins*, Esquire. The principal Members of the *Consult*, were so well satisfied with his Services, that they judg'd 'em worthy of a publique reward, as indeed they must be thought by all that take their estimate of worthy Actions from the sincerity and prudence of the Actor, rather than the success, which was not in his own power. For my part, thô Mr. *Osborn* cannot but think this usage very hard, yet I think him not a little oblig'd to Mr. *W.* for laying on him such an absolute necessity of exposing his *own*, as well as his *Brethren*'s Exemplary Zeal for the *Protestant Interest*, to publique view; which their modesty would else have suppress'd the notice of; and doubt not but the *Government* will in due time take it into consideration.

For Mr. *Hewson*, whom Mr. *W.* joyns with Mr. *Osborn*; I suppose he is not ignorant, that he was some years before publickly discarded by the N. C. Ministers in the *North*, for his scandalous and turbulent carriage; and therefore they do no more then *right* to themselves in disowning him. His narrow Zeal that would suffer none to fight for the *Protestant Religion*, but such as would take the *Covenant*, was certainly very unseasonable as well as foolish *Bigottrie*; And I hope as Mr. *W.* spy'd this *Mote* in Mr. *Hewson's* Eye, he will not overlook the *Beam* in theirs, who are as zealous to exclude all from fighting for the same cause, who comply not with their *Sacrament-Test*. For they equally sacrifice the *common* Interest of the *Protestant Religion* to that of a *party*; and deprive their Majesties of the service of one part of their Subjects, as firm and steady to the *Protestant Religion*, and the *present Government*, as any whatsoever.

Having done this right to Mr. *Osb.* I think my self concern'd also to do the same Justice to the Dissenters in *Derry*. I confess, I think it would become both Parties more, to joyn in their thankful Acknowledgments to God for such a Series of Wonders in their Deliverance, then to quarrel about their share in being only the Instruments of it. But as Mr. *W.* gave the first publique occasion to these Debates, by that passage in his Preface, which

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(as explained by himself) ascribes the *chief*, not to say the *sole* glory of it, to the *Church of England*; so he is chiefly accountable for the ill consequences of 'em. And what I shall here suggest, is only to rectifie, what (if I mistake not) Mr. *W.* has misrepresented. As the *Dissenters* of *Derry* do not dispute with Mr. *W.* most of the Principal and Experienc'd Officers in the Garrison being *Conformists* (for it could not be otherwise, while none else but such had access to Military Employments, till some rais'd Regiments in this juncture) So on the other hand, Mr. *W.* should as little Dispute with them, their *Numbers* in *Derry* being more considerable. By the modestest Account of such Officers in the Garrison as were Conformists, The Dissenters in the Garrison it self, as well as those that stay'd in Town, were near five to one; nay many of 'em make the disproportion much greater. Nor are the Arguments imply'd in Mr. *W*'s *Q*'s *Vindication*, *p.* 15. of any force to prove the contrary. For a Governour, Coll. *Baker* had those advantages to recommend him, that would easily set him above any Competitor in their choice. And he had too great an Interest in the Hearts of Dissenters on the account of his known Affection to 'em, to be excepted against by 'em. All that can be inferr'd from his being a Conformist, on supposition of the Dissenters being more numerous, is only this, That they were too Zealous for their common Interest, to prefer their Affection to a party, before the safety of it, and regarded more in that excellent Person the *Qualities* that fitted him for that Station, then the *distinguishing Name* he bore. Nor had any other been chosen, if Col. *Baker* had not desir'd an Assistant to be joyn'd with him, on the *Civil part*, to take care of the Stores. And it was on his Recommendation that the Garrison assented to the *Reverend Mr. W*'s being his Assistant; which may still consist with the supposition fore-mentioned, if we do but allow the Dissenters the *good temper* which Mr. *W.* himself elsewhere attributes to 'em. And they paid too great respect to the *Laws*, to desire such a share in the Church as they then had, on any other occasion; and were too Modest to go about to engross it. But I would humbly offer to Mr. *W*'s Memory, a much surer way of computing

ting their Numbers then this that he has offered. In the Cathedral in the *forenoon* when the *Conformists* Preach'd, there was but comparatively a *thin* Auditory; in the Afternoon it was very *full*, and there were four or five *Meetings* of Dissenters in the Town besides. And how any man will reconcile this with the Number of Conformists being more considerable, or indeed near equal to that of their *Brethren*, I cannot well imagine. And for the *Nonconformists Ministers* (and the same may be justly said of the *Conformists*) they not only *kept their people Quiet and Obedient*, but by their Exhortations constantly animated their Courage in their many bold and resolute Sallies. And therefore so very *slender* a Commendation of 'em as the *former*, needed not have been allay'd, by adding the *misbehaviours* of their Brother Mr. *Osb.* which are but *feigned*, and the *real* ones of Mr. *Hewsons*, wherein they are not concern'd. Nor are Mr. *W*'s Reflections on their Brethren here in *England* (to whom he supposes the temper of their Brethren in *Derry* a reproach) any better grounded then those on Mr. *Osb.* but being only *General*, no Man is concern'd to go about to disprove 'em. I must also add, as to those Ministers in *Derry*, That there was some real ground to suspect the Ingenuity of Mr. *W*--s *Amanuensis* in the omission of their Names. (All being willing to excuse Mr. *W.* himself from so mean a thing) For not to insist on other things, a Minister here received a Letter from two of his Brethren in *Scotland*, bearing Date *Edinb. Aug.* 15. (89) wherein are these words, *This Account we have confirm'd by Mr.* Walker, *&c. on whom we waited yesterday at the* Abby, *in D.* Hamiltons *Lodgings*, &c. *to Enquire concerning the Condition of our Brethren there. The Account he gave us of our Brethren is indeed afflicting; There being three besides Mr.* Gilkrist *removed (by Death)* viz. *Mr.* William Crook, *Mr.* Robert Willson, *and (as we took it) Mr.* John Rowatt. *The rest of 'em,* viz. *Mr.* Tho. Boyd, *Mr.* John Hamilton, *Mr.* John Mackenzy, *and another whose Name he could not remember, were in Health*, &c. *This general hint is all we judg'd needful for the present, but you may have a more full Account from Mr.* Walker, *who hath taken his Journey this day for* London. I alledge this passage only to clear those from any imputation

imputation of ill-will to Mr. *W.* who were ready to blame this Omiſſion as *partial*, for I am ſtill ſo Charitable as to believe it poſſible, either that he might forget the Names here mentioned in ſuch a hurry of Viſits and Buſineſs ſince, or he might intend no more by that paſſage, then that he could not learn all their Names, and might be unwilling to publiſh an imperfect Liſt of 'em. I am almoſt aſham'd to mention theſe *Triſles*, did not the clearing theſe matters of Fact tend to extinguiſh theſe fooliſh Heats about 'em: And I am perſwaded theſe ſlips of Mr. *W.*-s excellent Pen had not been taken notice of, if they had not lookt too like a Deſign to diminiſh the juſt Credit of a Party, which above all things, an *Impartial Hiſtorian* ſhould avoid all appearance of.

There is but one thing more I would trouble the Reader with, A Relation of Mr. *W*'s has done me the honour to report me the Author of a Paper call'd, *An Apology for the Failures*, &c. I muſt be ſo juſt to the real Author (whom I do not certainly know) and to my ſelf, as to profeſs I neither *Wrote* it, nor *knew* any thing of the *Writing* of it; but yet I think this ſharp *Advertiſement* at the End of Mr. *W*'s *Vindication*, has done the Book-ſeller the kindneſs of helping off the *Impreſſion* the ſooner. 'Tis true that *Gent.* has run into ſome miſtakes, by taking things upon ſlight Reports. As he has been leſs kind to Mr. *Cairns* then he intended, in intimating that as a Publique Declaration, which was only Private Diſcourſe and Reſolution, and aſcribing that to him as ſingle, which he always own'd was done by joint conſent with others. And he has done the *Arch-Biſhop* of *Dublin* wrong, by ſuggeſting a common, but (I ſuppoſe) groundleſs ſtory of his having receiv'd a 1000*l.* out of the Fund of Charity for *Iriſh* Proteſtants. But as Mr. *W*'s Pen is no more *Infallible* than that *Gent*'s, ſo he ſhould in kindneſs to himſelf, have treated theſe miſtakes with ſofter Names than thoſe of *Lies*, *Malice*, *Impudence*, &c. For I ſuppoſe that Gent. will not perſiſt in 'em. Mr. *W.* might alſo, if he had pleas'd, forborn ſo Ungrateful a Reproach, as that of *Dulneſs*, and a *Vulgar way of Writing*.

And

And however he had despis'd that *Paper* 'twas not so decent to consign it into the hands of the *Executioner*, nor was it so Civil a Complement to the *Magistrate* to concern him in all the little *squabbles* of quarrelsom Writers. For the *Reflections* which he pretends that Paper casts on the *Government*, he must have very good eyes that can see 'em. I am indeed much troubled to find so many severe ones on some of the *Bishops* and *Clergy*, but think Mr. *W.* had the least right to reprove that *Gentleman* for it, who in this Paper has so perfectly *copied* his *example* in those he casts on the *Dissenters*, which are as *ill-tim'd*, and as little *excusable* as the others. But I foresee so little good from, and take so little delight in these *ill-natur'd* Subjects, that I shall give no occasion for new heats by descending into any particular examination of their Truth or Justice on the one hand or the other. I could rather wish these two *Gentlemen* would make the Publick this reparation for the harm they have done by their unseasonable Reflections, to write each of 'em a Panegyrick on the others Party. This argument would shew more good humour, and the carriage of the moderate and sober Clergy and Laity on both sides, both in the *late Reign*, and in this *happy Revolution*, will furnish 'em with materials enough. And methinks, of all things, the account of the Seige of *Derry* shou'd never have rais'd these warm Contests. 'Tis pity that distinction of Parties, which was so generously laid aside during the *Seige* it self, should be soon resum'd in these *Discourses* it has unhappily occasioned. There is no *Reflection* which the *Account* of it can more naturally suggest, than *the necessity of all Their Majesties Subjects, being united by their affection to the present Government, and to one another.* For how certainly had that important place been lost, and thereby the whole Kingdom of *Ireland*, (and perhaps the Peace of *Brittain* endangered) if the factious Spirit of a *Party* on either side had prevail'd either to divide their Counsels, or weaken their Strength! With what admirable vigour did so small a Garrison, struggling under all possible discouragements,

defend those Walls against a numerous Army, when the sense of common danger had cemented their affections! By what a series of astonishing successes did *Heaven* seem to smile on their united Zeal in so just a Cause! How little then can it befriend the common Interest of the Protestant Religion to set it on the narrow *Pedestal* of any Party; especially when the mighty opposition it must yet encounter, both in these Kingdoms and abroad, require all the hands that can be us'd in the defence of it! And how soon might the honour of our Nation revive, and our Arms become a *Terror* to our *Enemies abroad* by the easy Conquest of *those at home*, if abilities for service and a steddy zeal for the Protestant Religion and the present Government, were the only *Standard* of such as are admitted to *Civil* and *Military* Employments! For that excellent *Maxim* of His *Majesty* carries it's own convincing evidence with it, *That the employing all his Protestant Subjects in his Service will lay the best foundation of Union among themselves*; And all other *narrow* Politicks will but hazard our Ruine, because they will certainly divide, and so weaken us.

FINIS.